

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 to 14 (cancelled)

15. (currently amended) The image forming method according to claim 18, wherein the photothermographic material is imagewise exposed using a laser.

16. (original) The image forming method according to claim 15, wherein the laser is a laser diode.

17. (original) The image forming method according to claim 16, wherein the laser diode has a light-emission peak intensity in the wavelength of 350 nm to 450 nm.

18. (currently amended) An image forming method with a photothermographic sheet material, comprising imagewise exposing and thermally developing the photothermographic sheet material;

wherein the photothermographic material comprising at least a photosensitive silver halide having an average silver iodide content of 40% by mole or more, a non-photosensitive organic silver salt, a reducing agent and a binder, and a compound expressed by the following formula (H):

Formula (H): $Q - (Y)_N - C(Z_1)(Z_2)X$

wherein Q represents an alkyl group, an aryl group or a hetero ring group; Y represents a divalent linkage group; N represents 0 or 1; Z_1 and Z_2 each independently represent a halogen atom; and X represents a hydrogen atom or an electron-withdrawing group; and the thermally developing being started within 60 sec after imagewise exposure of the

photothermographic sheet material and wherein the imagewise exposing and thermal developing comprises imagewise exposing a part of the sheet and simultaneously developing a part of the sheet that has already been imagewise exposed.

19.(previously presented) The image forming method according to claim 18, wherein the average silver iodide content of the photosensitive silver halide is 90% by mole or more.

20. (previously presented) The image forming method according to claim 18, wherein the photosensitive silver halide is formed in the absence of the non-photosensitive organic silver salt.

21. (previously presented) The image forming method according to claim 18, wherein the thermal development is started within 30 sec after the imagewise exposure.

22. (previously presented) The image forming method according to claim 18, wherein the thermal development is started within 15 sec after the imagewise exposure.

23. (previously presented) The image forming method according to claim 18, wherein an average grain size of the photosensitive silver halide is 5 nm to 80 nm.

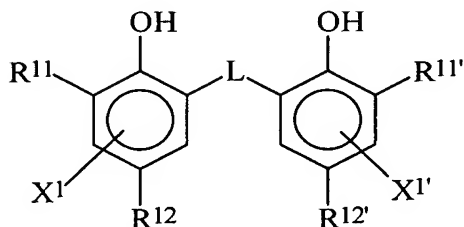
24. (previously presented) The image forming method according to claim 18, wherein an average grain size of the photosensitive silver halide is 5 nm to 30 nm.

25. (previously presented) The image forming method according to claim 18, wherein the photosensitive silver halide is chemically sensitized.

26. (previously presented) The image forming method according to claim 18, comprising a compound that can be one-electron-oxidized to provide a one-electron oxidation

product which releases one or more electrons.

27. (previously presented) The image forming method according to claim 18, comprising a compound expressed by the following general formula (R):



wherein R¹¹ and R^{11'} each independently represents an alkyl group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms, R¹² and R^{12'} each independently represents a hydrogen atom or a group capable of substituting for a hydrogen atom on a benzene ring, L represents a -S- group or a -CHR¹³- group, R¹³ represents a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms, and X¹ and X^{1'} each independently represents a hydrogen atom or a group capable of substituting for a hydrogen atom on a benzene ring.

28. (previously presented) The image forming method according to claim 18, comprising a developing accelerator.

29. (previously presented) The image forming method according to claim 18, comprising a hydrogen bonding compound.